

## The Crown Jewel Of Trail Running



Hawaii Tourism's Darragh Walshe competed in Hawaii's XTERRA Trail Run at Oahu's Kualoa Ranch last weekend—and is suggesting the event as a great option for clients who are into endurance events. Hailed as the crown jewel of the Paul Mitchell XTERRA Trail Run World Championship the event has been staged at the ranch since 2008, and

the organisers say the course takes runners through some of the most diverse and scenic terrain on the planet.

"It is annual and is ideal for New Zealanders who enjoy trail running—and there are plenty out there that compete in New Zealand trail run series throughout the country," says Walshe. "The scenery (if you get a chance to take time to appreciate it) is amazing, and you can see why Kualoa Ranch is the setting for so many famous movies and TV shows."

### Ice Staking in HNL

For clients who are Honolulu bound this Christmas, the Ward Village near Waikiki has opened an ice-rink, which is open through to Jan. The rink is open daily, and there's also a host of festive activities such as the chance to get your picture taken with the bug guy at Santa's beach house, and on 18 Dec there's a Frozen Sing-a-long event, where visitors can sing to Frozen tunes as they ice-skate. For more details see [wardvillageshops.com](http://wardvillageshops.com)

### ... City Lights Tour

Ward is also running a Honolulu City Lights Trolley Tour which takes in the high-lights of Honolulu's festive showcase. The cost is USD6.50pp, kids three and under are free. See [holidaylightstour.com](http://holidaylightstour.com)

### ... All Levels Welcome

While the headline is the 21km course the trail run has options for clients of all fitness levels. The event is open to runners of all ages, and options range from the 21K championship course, a 10km, a 5km, as well as an adventure walk.

It's also a chance to see trails at Kualoa Ranch which are normally closed to the public, so it offers a rare opportunity for runners to experience the unique setting. The scenery on the 4,000 acre working cattle ranch ranges from steep mountain cliffs down to the sea, and the terrain varies from dense rainforest to open valleys. For more on the Hawaii race see [xterra-planet.com](http://xterra-planet.com)

### 8 Months Of Growth

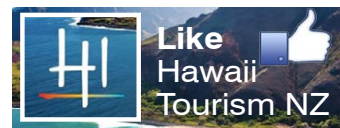
Hawaii Tourism is celebrating eight months of record arrival growth, with 7.2 million visitors arriving in the state Jan-Oct, up 4.2% on the same time last year. Arrivals reached a new record for the month of Oct, up 4.8% to 692,930, with Kauai (+7.9%), Oahu (+3%), Maui (+1.1%) and Hawaii Island (+0.6%) all registering arrivals growth for the month.

### Christmas Specialties

The Royal Hawaiian is gearing up for its Christmas festivities with a specially-curated dinner menu available for clients at Azure Restaurant on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Highlights of the menu include a chilled Kona lobster salad; Thai-scented Kauai shrimp bisque; Colorado rack of lamb; and a blanc island fruit cake, just to name a few—with a separate menu for the kids. Seating is available between 1730-2100 and costs USD150pp, USD195 with wine pairing, and USD45 for children aged between 05-12 years. There will also be a 'lavish' buffet available in the Monarch Room on Christmas Day.

### Run For Water

Clients in Hawaii this Christmas who aren't opposed to doing exercise whilst on holiday, can take part in the 5km Water for the World Run 26 Dec at the Waikiki Shell, which is held in a bid to raise awareness about global access to clean water. The fun run/walk will feature a scenic course around the Waikiki Zoo and Kapi'olani Park that will end with a traditional race finish line and an optional 150ft water slide finish line. "Approximately twice the population of the United States worldwide does not have access to clean water and we take it for granted that whenever we turn on a faucet, there will always be clean water to drink. Our mission is to give the gift of clean water to those without," says the race organiser. The race costs USD34.99pp and gates open at 0800 for registration. See [waterfortheworldrun.org](http://waterfortheworldrun.org)



### Downtown Honolulu Lights Up

Clients who are in Hawaii for the holidays can get into the Christmas spirit in Downtown Honolulu, which every Dec hosts impressive lighting displays with a distinct Hawaiian flavour—including a giant shaka-pulling Santa and his wife, Mrs Claus. The Clauses can be found outside the Honolulu Hale (Oahu's historic city hall), and clients looking to be immersed in tropical Christmas festivities should head to King St in Downtown Honolulu or Kalakaua Ave in Waikiki.

**AKL → HNL**

From **\$1220\***pp

\* G class year round. Refer GDS for details.

